

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 237591

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /036 R

DRAFTED BY EB/AN:AJRIMAS:DAP

APPROVED BY EB/AN:WBCOBB

AF/W - R. MCGUIRE

CAB - F. MURPHY

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R 061943Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, GH

SUBJECT:CIVAIR: USG/GOG TALKS

REF: ACCRA 6421

CASABLANCA FOR RCAA WHITMAN

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PAGE 02 STATE 237591

1. PAN AM ADVISED DEPARTMENT ON OCTOBER 1 THAT AIRLINE

HAS REASSESSED ITS POSITION AND NOW AGREES WITH CURRENT USG POLICY OF NOT GRANTING TO GHANA AN UNRESTRICTED ROUTE TO UNITED STATES. PAN AM BELIEVES THAT IN VIEW OF THIS POLICY THERE WOULD BE AN INEVITABLE CONFRONTATION IN THE FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS, WITH NO APPARENT SOLUTION. ACCORDINGLY, PAN AM SUGGESTS THAT WE SHOULD EXPLORE INFORMALLY WITH GOG WHETHER IT WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO A POSTPONEMENT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL LATER THIS YEAR TO ENABLE PAN AM AND GHANA AIRWAYS TO EXPLORE FURTHER THE POSSIBILITY OF A SOLUTION AT THE AIRLINE LEVEL TO THE PRESENT IMPASSE. IF THE REACTION IS NEGATIVE, US/GOG TALKS COULD TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED. PAN AM ACKNOWLEDGES THE RISK THAT THIS APPROACH COULD OFFEND GOG FURTHER AND THAT PAN AM'S OPERATING AUTHORITY MIGHT THEN BE IN IMMEDIATE JEOPARDY.

2. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT NEW PAN AM REGIONAL MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA WISHES TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE NEW WORKING ARRANGEMENTS WITH GHANA AIRWAYS. DELAY OF GOVERNMENT LEVEL TALKS WOULD THEREFORE PERMIT PAN AM TO FINALIZE AND PRESENT ITS PROPOSAL AND WOULD ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR GHANA OFFICIALS TO CONSIDER IT. FYI: WE ASSUME THAT PAN AM'S PROPOSAL WOULD BE BUILT AROUND A BLOCK SPACE ARRANGEMENT WHICH HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY REJECTED BY GOG AND GHANA AIRWAYS. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT RULE OUT THAT NEW ELEMENTS MAY BE INTRODUCED IN PAN AM'S OFFER. END FYI.

3. AMBASSADOR BLACK AND AF BELIEVE PAN AM SHOULD HOLD TALKS WITH GHANA AIRWAYS PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 10. AMBASSADOR DOES NOT FEEL IT WOULD BE WISE TO TRY TO POSTPONE US-GOG TALKS AT THIS LATE DATE. EB AND CAB HAVE SUGGESTED THAT, IF EMBASSY DEEMS ADVISABLE, AN INFORMAL APPROACH BE MADE TO GOG INQUIRING WHETHER OR NOT GOG WOULD CONCUR IN HAVING AIRLINES MAKE ONE MORE ATTEMPT AT THIS TIME TO RESOLVE CIVAIR ISSUES. EMBASSY COULD INDICATE THAT WHILE WE ARE READY TO MEET WITH GOG AS SCHEDULED, IT MAY BE MORE PRODUCTIVE TO POSTPONE TALKS IN THE INTEREST OF GIVING AIRLINES ONE MORE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE EQUITABLE ARRANGEMENT AND TO FORESTALL POSSIBILITIES OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 237591

ITY THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD BE FACED WITH NEGOTIATING FROM POSITIONS WHICH AT THIS TIME APPEAR TO DIVERGE CONSIDERABLY.

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATIONS SOONEST. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL. EMBASSY VIEWS WILL BE CONSIDERED IN DEVELOPING US POSITION. ALTHOUGH AN UNRESTRICTED ROUTE FOR GHANA

TO US IS NOT UNDER CONSIDERATION, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO
DEVELOP A POSITION WHICH WOULD PROTECT OUR OVERALL CIVIL
INTERESTS AND BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICY OBJECTIVES
IN GHANA. KISSINGER

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